

Director, Photographic Intelligence Center

9 February 1960

Special Assistant for Research and Development, PIC

Request for Electronic Engineering Consultant Services from the Office of Communications.

1. In response to a request by Mr. Amory in early 1959, PIC's Research and Development group have been investigating secure photographic transmission for use between PIC and Langley and between PIC and [redacted]. We have received proposals from [redacted] on a digital system for secure transmission of photographic imagery. At a fairly reasonable cost, they can develop the encryption and decryption devices (about \$50,000) to allow us to use the 800 cycles per second or higher existing communications links between these places.

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2. In order for us to go any further with our studies, it will be necessary for us to solicit consulting services from the electronic engineers connected with the CIA Office of Communications staff. Several conferences have been held to investigate the feasibility of these photo links (CYFAX) for both long and short range transmissions. The services mentioned above will be needed to evaluate the feasibility of establishing CYFAX links between Washington and [redacted] at a later date.

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3. When the majority of CIA is housed in the new Langley site, it will be very desirable to have a microwave connection from the Steuart Building with our offices at Langley. An additional problem is posed by our long-range decentralization plan, if and when it is implemented in the thoroughfare gap area. Under emergency conditions, PIC should have a secure communications system directly with Site Tempo and other Agency units from its hard-site location.

5. It is requested that [redacted] be asked to provide these services to PIC as a requirement in planning an implementation.

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